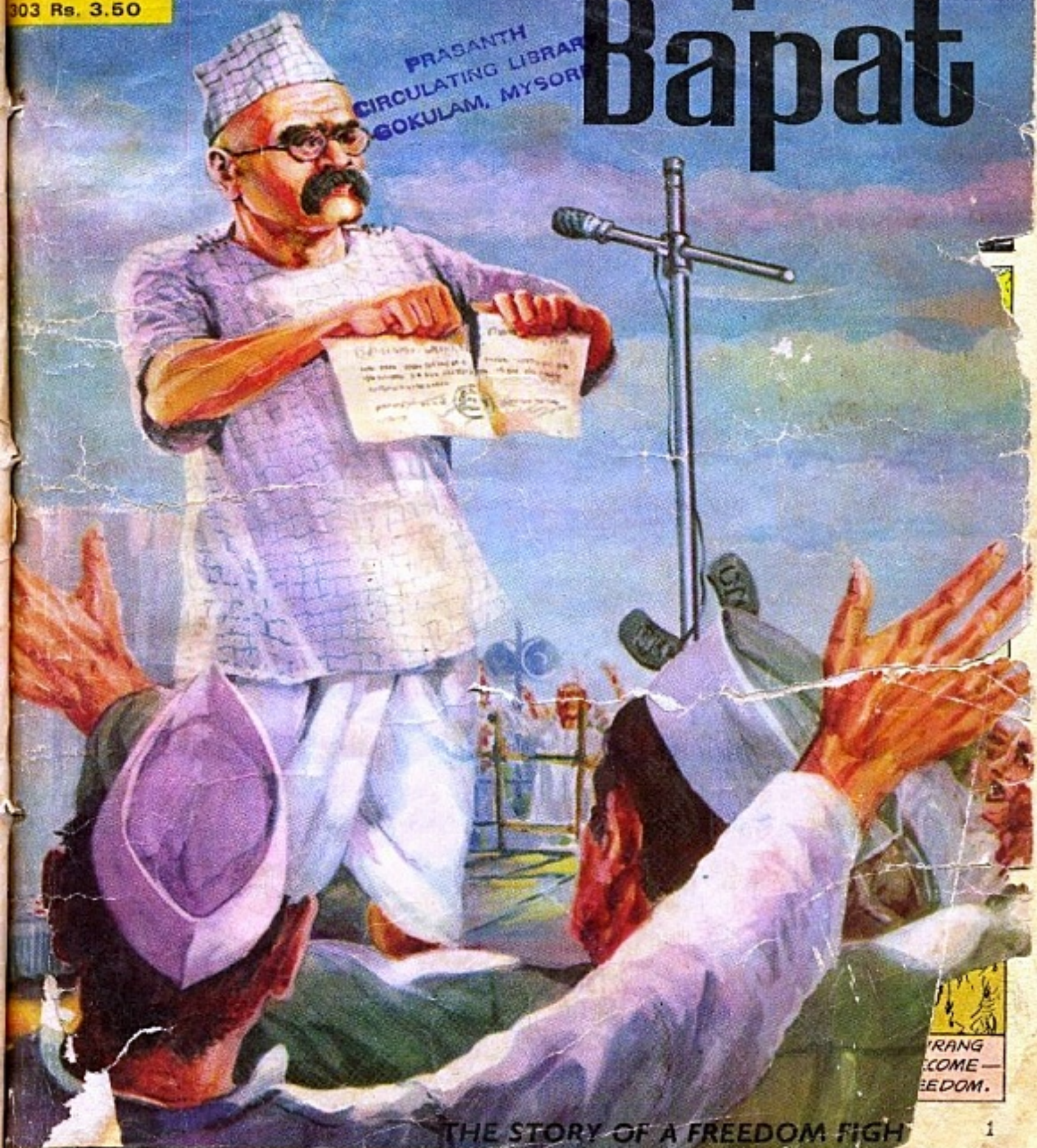


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# Senapati Bapat

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THE STORY OF A FREEDOM FIGHT



## **Amar Chitra Katha**

No. 303, February 1, 1984

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## **Senapati Bapat**

Senapati Bapat or Tatya, as he affectionately called, was born November 12, 1880, at Parner in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

He took the oath of poverty when he was a college student and thenceforth gave himself up entirely to the cause of the motherland.

Though he believed in violence as a means to a noble end, he was not averse to peaceful methods but took the course only if they worked. This was Senapati's greatest attribute — catholicity of outlook and openness of mind. He had the courage to criticise even Gandhiji if he thought him to be wrong, but the next moment, he would fast with the Mahatma if he considered the cause was good. The cause, not the man, was what mattered to Senapati — the high ideal he followed all through his life.

**We are grateful to Shri Vaman Bapat for sparing his precious time to go through the text and works of this title and for offering valuable suggestions.**

— Editor

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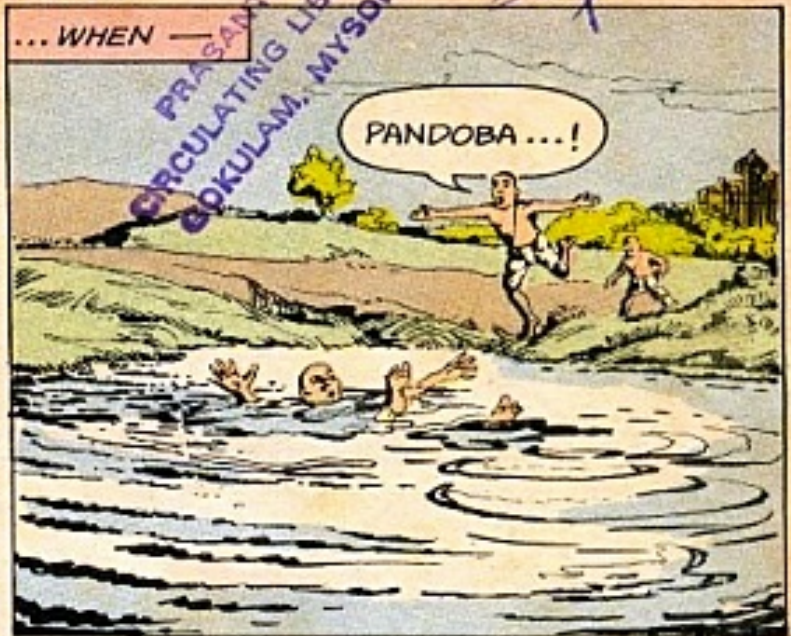
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# ENAPATI BAPAT



THREE YOUNG BOYS WERE ONCE PLAYING IN A POND AT PARNER...



ONE OF THEM KNEW HOW TO SWIM.



SOME DAYS LATER —

TAKE CARE, PANDURANG. AREN'T YOU FRIGHTENED TO SIT THERE, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY?



NO, I'M NOT. WHY SHOULD I BE?



MAYBE THAT'S WHAT PANDOBA IS GOING TO BECOME — A FIGHTER!

THAT WAS JUST WHAT PANDURANG MAHADEO BAPAT WAS TO BECOME — A FIGHTER FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM.



## THE PRICE FOR SPEAKING OUT

ON JANUARY 14, 1906, A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY\* WAS BEING HELD AT EDINBURGH IN SCOTLAND. ONE OF THE SPEAKERS WAS BAPAT; HIS SUBJECT, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

FRIENDS, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA IS THE WORST ONE CAN THINK OF FOR A SUBJECT NATION. IT IS THE WORST FORM OF EVIL FOR US INDIANS, FOR EVEN THE BRITONS, OUR RULERS, AND FOR THE HUMAN RACE.



IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HUMAN RACE AND IN PURSUANCE OF JUSTICE FOR OUR MILLIONS AND IN ORDER TO SAVE THE BRITONS THEMSELVES FROM DEGENERATING INTO ABJECT SERVANTS OF THE DEVIL, WE HAVE MADE UP OUR MIND TO GET BACK OUR FREEDOM... WE ARE CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY.



CONGRATULATIONS, BAPAT. THAT WAS A FINE SPEECH!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.



BUT BAPAT'S INDIAN COLLEAGUES WERE SHOCKED.

BAPAT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? IF THE BRITISH IN INDIA COME TO KNOW OF YOUR SPEECH...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE HERE ON A SCHOLARSHIP?



AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF LOSING IT?

NOT IN THE LEAST!



SOMETIMES, SPEAKING OUT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVERYTHING ELSE. AND I'M GLAD I DID.



BUT BAPAT HAD TO PAY THE PRICE FOR DOING SO—HE LOST HIS SCHOLARSHIP.

\* LATER NAMED THE LABOUR PARTY



## BAPAT BRINGS THE BOMB TO INDIA

FROM EDINBURGH, BAPAT WENT TO LONDON AND THEN CAME TO PARIS.



HE HAD COME TO PARIS WITH A PURPOSE — TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. DEDICATED RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES WERE HIS INSTRUCTORS.

THE MAIN BASE OF THE BOMB IS A CHEMICAL KNOWN AS PICRIC ACID...



IN THE MEANWHILE, BAPAT ALSO MANAGED TO GET A RUSSIAN MANUAL ON BOMB-MAKING. A RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY, ANNA KLAUS, TRANSLATED IT INTO ENGLISH FOR HIM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, ANNA.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE, BAPAT.



BAPAT MADE TWENTY COPIES OF THE MANUAL TO DISTRIBUTE AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES, HEMACHANDRA DAS, V.D. SAVARKAR AND OTHERS. HE ALSO RESOLVED IN HIS USUAL FEARLESS MANNER TO EXPLODE A BOMB IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS!



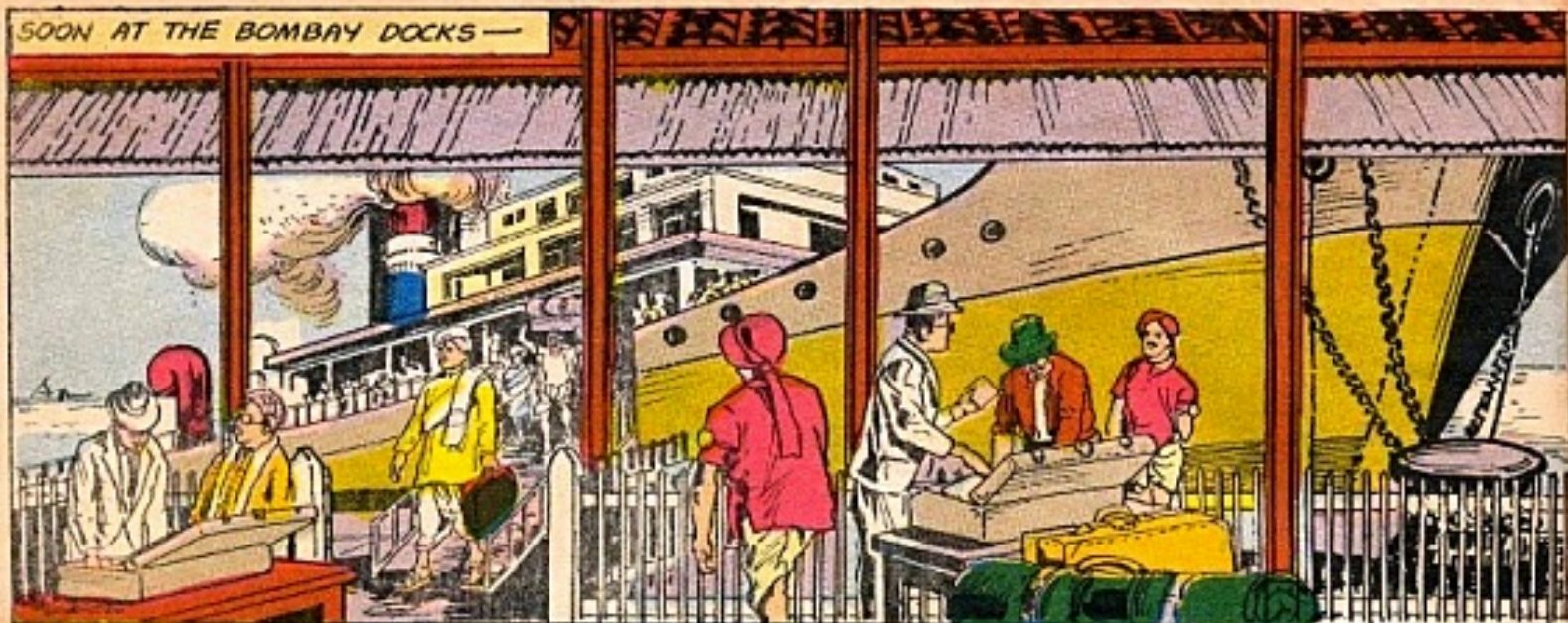
BUT SAVARKAR DISSUADED HIM FROM DOING THIS.

GO BACK HOME, INSTEAD, BAPAT, AND TEACH OUR YOUTH TO MAKE BOMBS.

YES... YOU ARE RIGHT. I WILL RETURN TO INDIA.

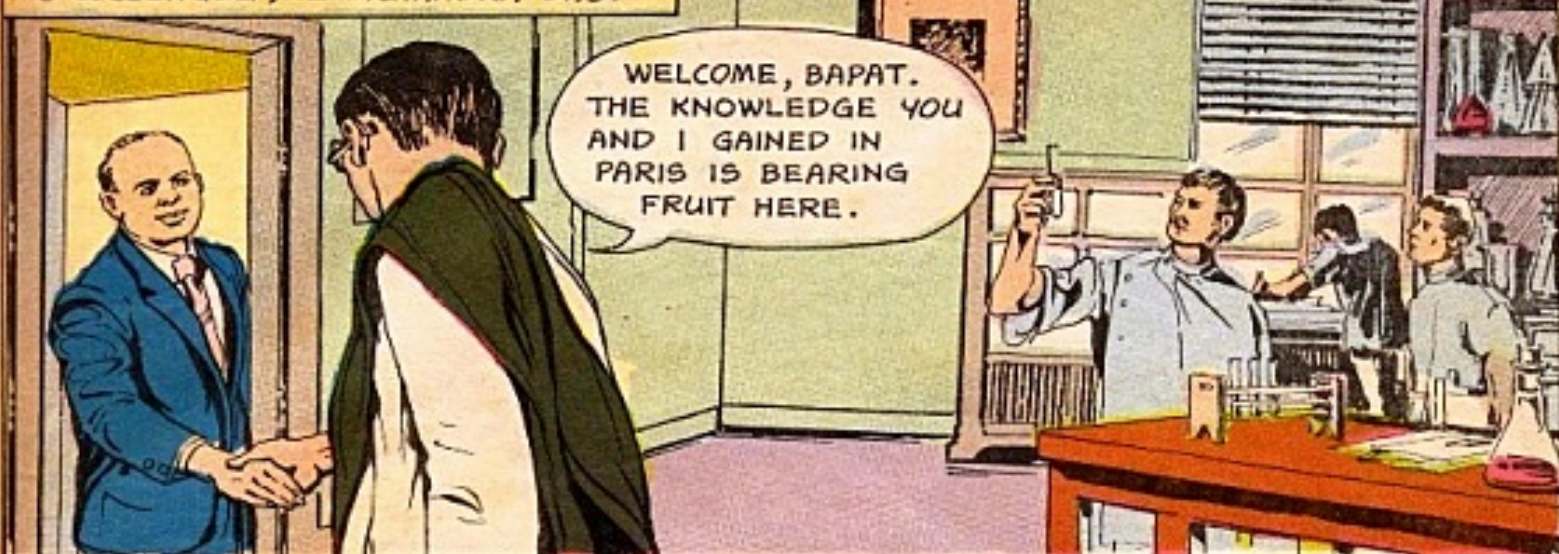








THESE COPIES WERE SOON DISTRIBUTED. LATER BAPAT WENT TO CALCUTTA TO MEET HIS COLLEAGUE, HEMACHANDRA DAS.



THE TWO FRIENDS PARTED AND A WORRIED BAPAT LEFT BENGAL.



SOON, IN WHAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANIKTOLA BOMB CASE, TWO YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES EXPLODED A BOMB.



THE PAPERS REPORTED IT ALL.



AT PUNE —

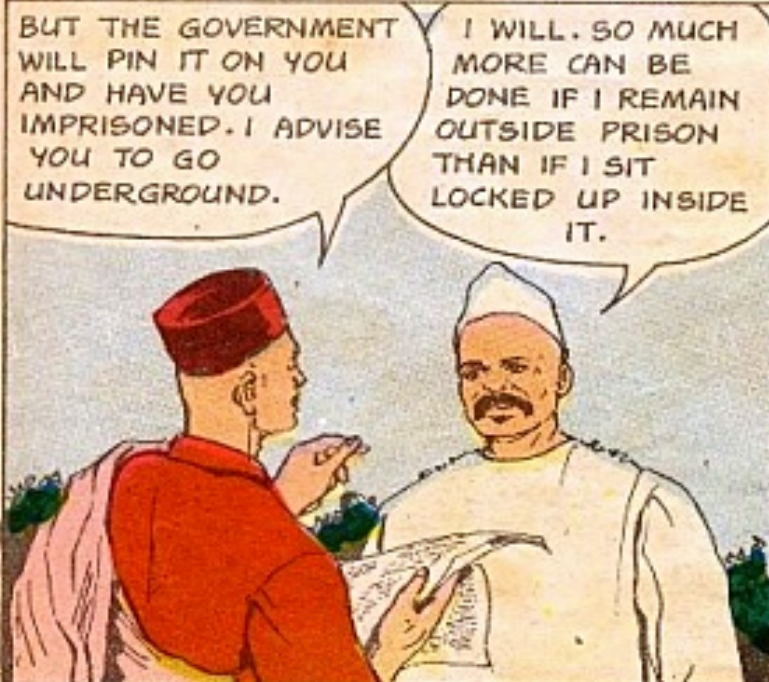
BAPAT, ONE OF THE ACCUSED AT THE TRIAL HAS MENTIONED THAT YOUR VISIT TO CALCUTTA WAS CONNECTED WITH THE BOMB INCIDENT.

THAT IS ABSURD. I HAD NO HAND IN IT.



BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PIN IT ON YOU AND HAVE YOU IMPRISONED. I ADVISE YOU TO GO UNDERGROUND.

I WILL. SO MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE IF I REMAIN OUTSIDE PRISON THAN IF I SIT LOCKED UP INSIDE IT.

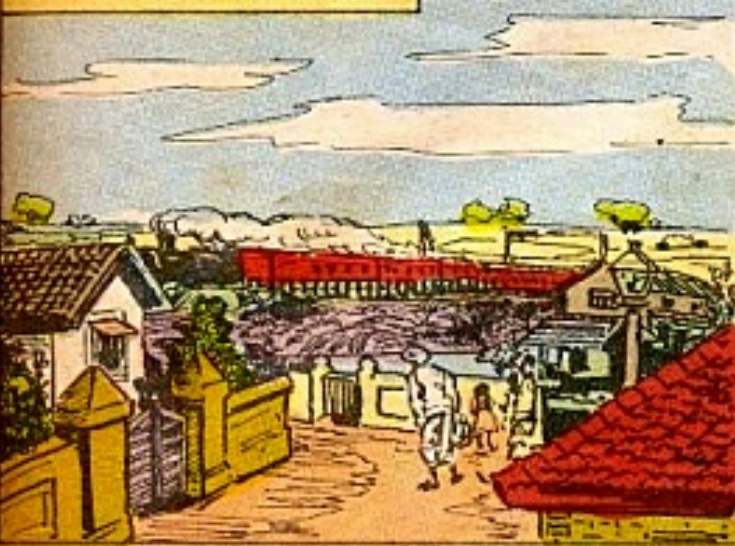


SO BAPAT, THE MAN WHO HAD INTRODUCED THE BOMB INTO INDIA, WAS NOW ON THE RUN.





ONE DAY, A STRANGER CAME TO THE TOWN OF AURANGABAD.



YES, WHAT IS IT?



???

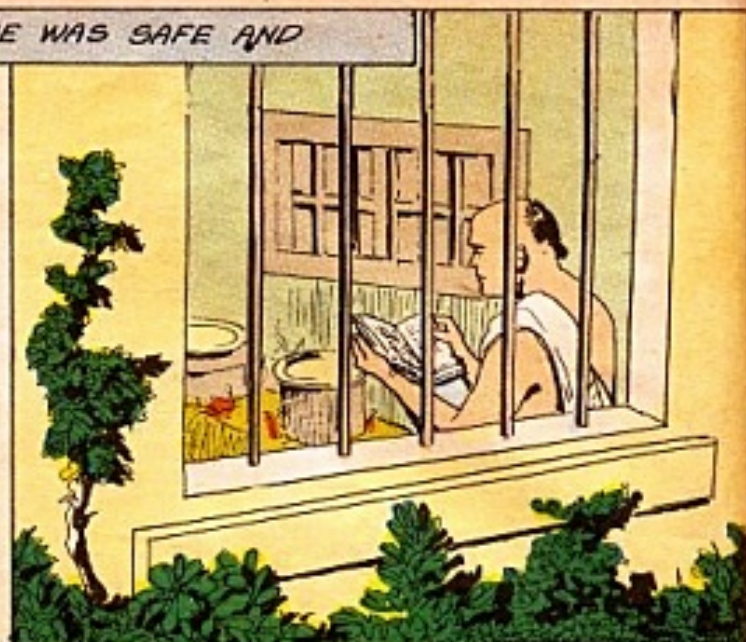


MY FRIEND SENT ME TO YOU. MY NAME IS BAPAT, ALIAS VISHNU VINAYAK MULEY. I WANT THE JOB OF A COOK HERE. I AM SUPPOSED TO BE DEAF AND DUMB, SO PLEASE TREAT ME AS IF I AM SO. DESTROY THIS PAPER IMMEDIATELY.





AND SO FOR TEN MONTHS BAPAT THOUGHT HE WAS SAFE AND LIVED A QUIET LIFE.



BUT THE POLICE WERE NOT ASLEEP!



THE POLICE OFFICIAL BEGAN TO KEEP A WATCH ON THE COOK.









SOON AFTER, AT BETAI IN BADHWANI STATE, CENTRAL INDIA, A FARMER NAMED PURUSHOTTAM SAKHARAM VAIDYA MADE HIS APPEARANCE.

BAPAT, THIS IS THE FARMHOUSE AND LAND WE HAVE BOUGHT FOR YOU.

IT IS IDEAL — FAR FROM CITY AND TOWN. THANK YOU. BUT CALL ME VAIDYA.



BUT IT'S TOO QUIET AND THEY SAY THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED...

GOOD! IF I FEEL LONELY, THE GHOSTS WILL KEEP ME COMPANY.



MEANWHILE, IN PARNER —

WHERE IS YOUR SON? YOU ARE FLOUTING THE LAW BY HIDING HIS WHEREABOUTS. WHERE IS HE?

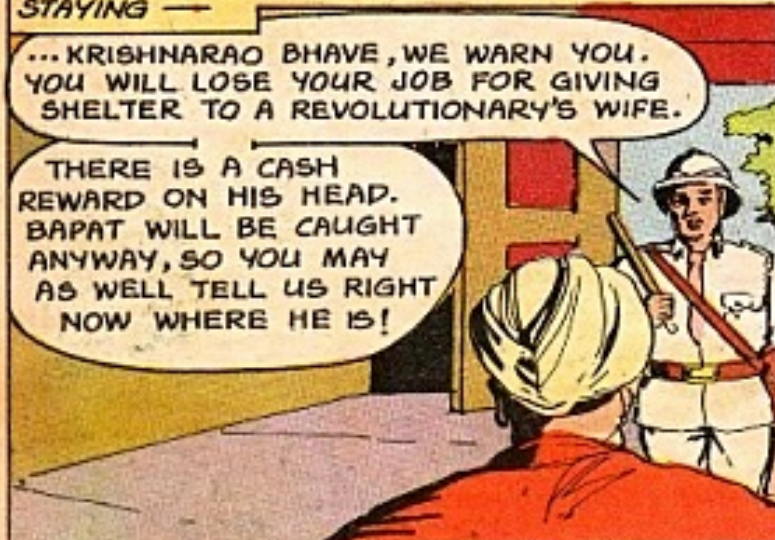
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING... PLEASE GO AWAY.



AT THE HOUSE OF BAPAT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, WHERE BAPAT'S WIFE, RUKMINIBAI WAS STAYING —

...KRISHNARAO BHAVE, WE WARN YOU. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR JOB FOR GIVING SHELTER TO A REVOLUTIONARY'S WIFE.

THERE IS A CASH REWARD ON HIS HEAD. BAPAT WILL BE CAUGHT ANYWAY, SO YOU MAY AS WELL TELL US RIGHT NOW WHERE HE IS!



THE POLICE HARASSED BAPAT'S FAMILY...

...BUT NO ONE LET HIM DOWN, SO BAPAT COULD CONTINUE ON HIS TRAVELS, INCOGNITO.





# BAPAT RESCUES A CASTAWAY

FOR A WHILE, BAPAT STAYED WITH A FRIEND AT BADHWANI. THERE HE MET SITABAI, WIFE OF ANOTHER FRIEND.



BAPAT SAHEB, WHEN YOUR FRIEND MARRIED ME, I WAS A WIDOW. I HAD A DAUGHTER BY MY FIRST MARRIAGE. HER NAME IS MALATI.



I HAD ENTRUSTED HER TO A WOMAN NAMED TANIBAI, WHO HAS TURNED OUT TO BE UNSCRUPULOUS. I AM NOW AFRAID TANIBAI WILL SPOIL MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE.



I THINK ALL THE TIME OF MY YOUNG CHILD... AND YET, TO BRING HER HERE TO MY NEW HUSBAND'S HOUSE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...



SITABAI, I KNOW WHAT TO DO. I WILL FILE A SUIT FOR THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

BUT... YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY HIDDEN AT ALL COSTS... YOU WILL BE RISKING TOO MUCH...



BUT BAPAT, OR VAIDYA AS HE WAS NOW CALLED, WENT TO DHAR AND FILED THE SUIT AGAINST TANIBAI.





BUT BAPAT NEEDED MONEY TO STAY ON AT DHAR TILL THE CASE WAS DECIDED. SO—

SIR, IS THERE A VACANCY FOR THE POST OF A TEACHER IN YOUR SCHOOL?

THERE IS, VAIDYA. AND THE JOB IS YOURS, BUT PLEASE PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE TO SAY THAT YOU ARE A MATRICULATE.

MY CERTIFICATE IS IN THE NAME OF PANDURANG BAPAT. I'LL NEED A NEW CERTIFICATE IN MY NEW NAME. HM-M-...

AND SO, AT 31, BAPAT APPEARED AGAIN FOR THE MATRIC EXAMINATION...

...SECURED A FIRST CLASS WITH DISTINCTION...

...GOT HIS JOB...



...AND EVENTUALLY, THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

MY CHILD, GO—TELL YOUR VAIDYAMAMA HOW GRATEFUL YOU ARE!

VAIDYAMAMA! MY VAIDYAMAMA!



BAPAT SAW THAT MALATI WAS WELL TAKEN CARE OF.



# BAPAT RETURNS HOME

FROM BADHWANI, BAPAT MOVED TO VARANASI.

WHAT BEAUTY!  
WHAT PEACE! HERE BY  
THE GANGA, HOW FAR  
AWAY THOSE DAYS  
SEEM WHEN I WAS  
ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE BOMB!



THOSE SIMPLE WOMEN...  
DO THEY EVEN KNOW OF  
THE PLIGHT THEY ARE  
IN?



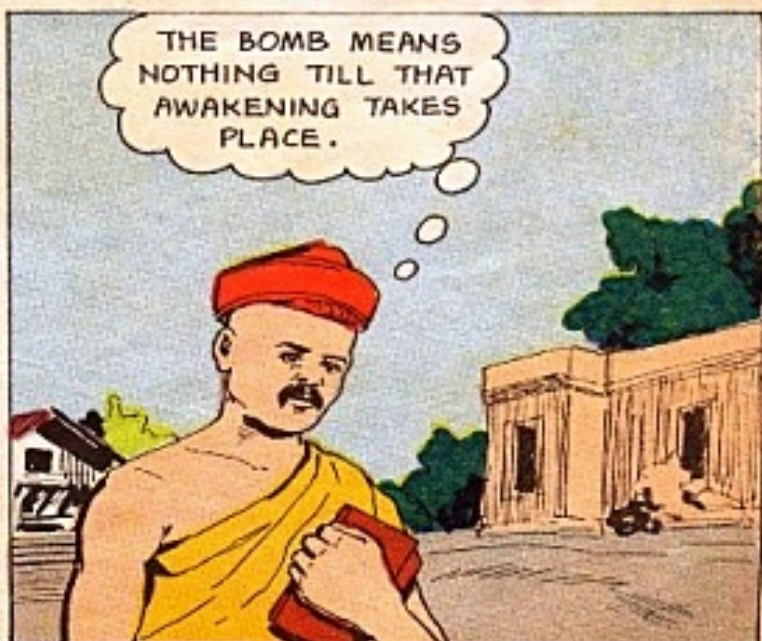
THAT BANGLE-SELLER MAY  
VAGUELY KNOW THAT HE IS  
BEING RULED BY WHITE  
MEN, BUT IS HE BOTHERED  
BY IT?



NO... THEY ARE JUST  
NOT AWARE! OUR  
PEOPLE MUST FIRST  
BE WOKEN UP,  
STIRRED INTO  
MASS REBELLION.



THE BOMB MEANS  
NOTHING TILL THAT  
AWAKENING TAKES  
PLACE.





FOR OVER FOUR YEARS BAPAT MANAGED TO EVADE THE POLICE. BUT, FINALLY, A FRIEND BETRAYED HIM AND HE WAS ARRESTED.



NOW, BAPAT, YOU ARE ORDERED TO GIVE A STATEMENT OF ALL THAT YOU DID SINCE YOU WENT UNDERGROUND.

I WILL NOT!



IS NOT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS BOMB-MANUAL IN THE COUNTRY YOUR DOING?

I WILL NOT ANSWER.



LATER, AT DELHI —

DO YOU FAVOUR THE ACT OF BOMB-OUTRAGE?

BOMB-OUTRAGE? YOU MEAN THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO ARM THEMSELVES AND OVERTHROW THE FOREIGN YOKE?





## Hidden Gems



### **The Man who snored**

Once, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was on a visit to Madras he stayed at a friend's house, near the beach.

One night, tired after a busy day, he lay down, hoping to get a good night's rest. But try as he might, he could not fall asleep. What kept him awake, he soon realized, was a rumbling sound coming from beyond his room. He rose and went outside to find out what it could be.

There on the verandah lay a young man. He was fast asleep, and ... he was snoring!

Panditji went to his host and requested him to ask the young man to sleep elsewhere or to allow him to shift his own bedding to the sea-shore.

Years later, on that very sea-shore, Pandit Nehru unveiled the statue of a renowned Indian.

And that Indian was none other than the young man who had once disturbed Panditji's sleep – Shri Kamaraj Nadar, who as President of the Indian National Congress played an important role in the affairs of our country.

By : P B Shaktivel – MADRAS.



## THOSE WHO WENT TO CHINA

Script : Swarn Khandpur  
Illustrations : S. K. Parab



AS EARLY AS 65 A.D. TWO BUDDHIST MONKS, DHARMARAKSHA AND KASHYAPA MATANGA, MADE THE PERILOUS JOURNEY TO CHINA CARRYING SACRED BOOKS ON A WHITE HORSE.



THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE CHINESE EMPEROR, MING TI, WHO BUILT A MONASTERY FOR THEM AND CALLED IT THE WHITE HORSE MONASTERY.



AFTER THAT, SEVERAL HUNDRED BUDDHIST MONKS FROM OUR COUNTRY VISITED CHINA FROM TIME TO TIME. AMONG THEM PARAMARTHA, KUMARAJIVA, BODHIDHARMA AND JIVAGUPTA BECAME VERY FAMOUS.



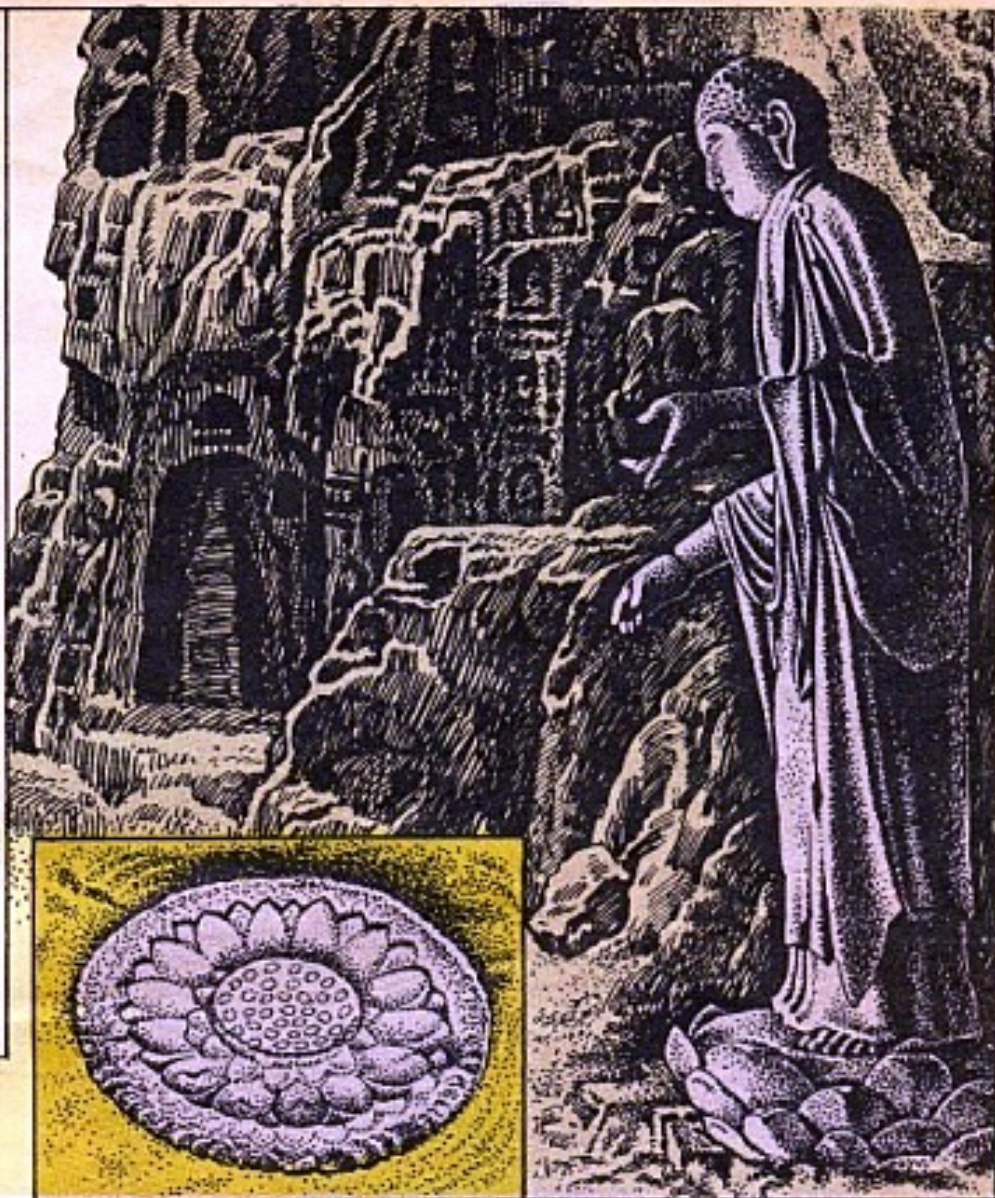
THESE INDIAN SCHOLARS NOT ONLY CARRIED MANY SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS WITH THEM WHICH THEY TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE BUT SOME OF THEM ALSO WROTE ORIGINAL BOOKS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.



MANY INDIAN ARTISANS WERE INVITED FROM THE 'LAND OF THE BUDDHA' BY CHINESE RULERS TO CARVE CAVES, TO PAINT FREScoes AND TO MAKE BUDDHA'S IMAGES.



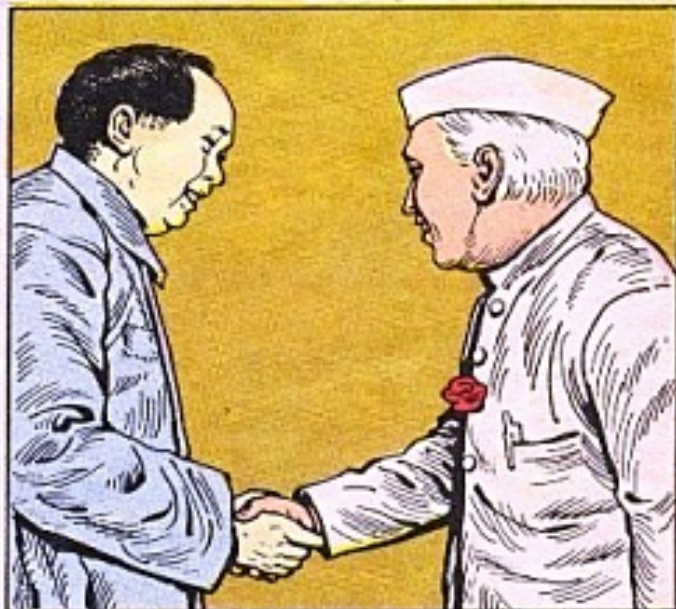
WITH THE DECLINE OF BUDDHISM IN INDIA, VISITS OF MONKS AND TEACHERS TO CHINA PRACTICALLY STOPPED.



IN THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, MUHAMMAD TUGHLUQ SENT IBN BATUTA AS HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE CHINESE COURT.



THEN IN 1924, RABINDRANATH TAGORE VISITED CHINA TO RE-ESTABLISH CULTURAL TIES...



... AND IN 1954, INDIAN AND CHINESE LEADERS EXCHANGED VISITS AND ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC TIES.





BUT THE POLICE COULD ESTABLISH NOTHING AGAINST BAPAT.

BAPAT, WE RELEASE YOU. YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW HAS SIGNED A BOND FOR FOUR THOUSAND RUPEES ON YOUR BEHALF.



THE APPROVER WHO MENTIONED YOUR NAME IS ALREADY DEAD — UNFORTUNATELY. HE COULD HAVE TOLD US MUCH...



AND SO, BAPAT RETURNED HOME.





IN PARNER, THE HAND THAT HAD BROUGHT THE BOMB TO INDIA, TOOK UP A NEW WEAPON.

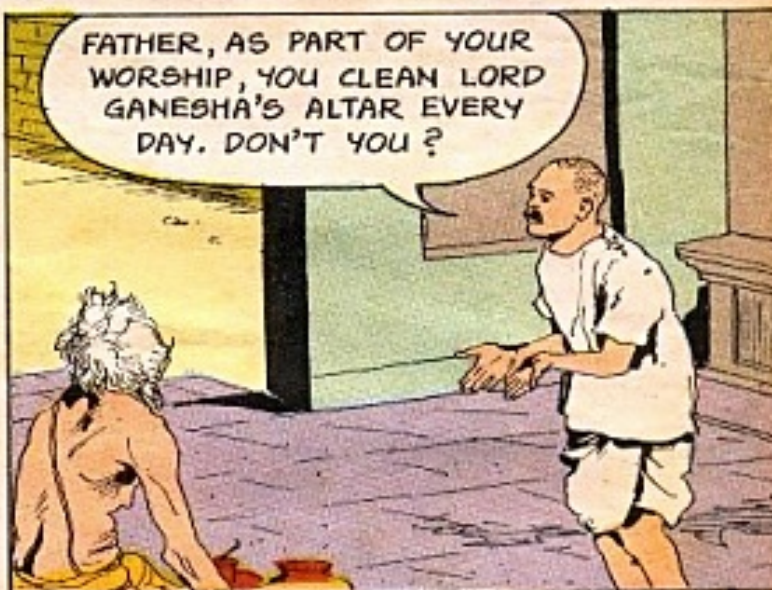


AT FIRST, BAPAT'S FATHER WAS UNHAPPY.

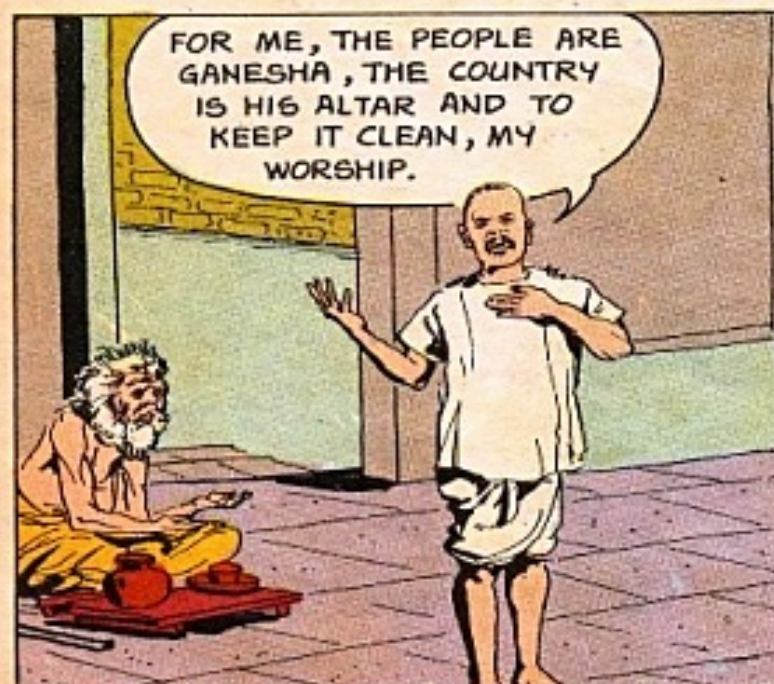
SWEEPING STREETS AND  
CLEANING GUTTERS! SON,  
HOW CAN I APPROVE OF  
SUCH WORK?



FATHER, AS PART OF YOUR  
WORSHIP, YOU CLEAN LORD  
GANESHA'S ALTAR EVERY  
DAY. DON'T YOU?



FOR ME, THE PEOPLE ARE  
GANESHA, THE COUNTRY  
IS HIS ALTAR AND TO  
KEEP IT CLEAN, MY  
WORSHIP.



CARRY ON YOUR GREAT  
WORK, MY SON... WITH  
MY BLESSINGS.





# THE MULSHI UPRISING

ONE MORNING, TWO FRIENDS MET BAPAT AT HIS HOUSE. AT MULSHIPET, NEAR PUNE, THE TATA ELECTRIC COMPANY HAD PLANNED TO BUILD A DAM ACROSS THE RIVER AT MULSHI. THIS WAS OPPOSED BY THE PEASANTS WHOSE LAND WOULD BE SUBMERGED.

DID YOU READ ABOUT THE VIOLENCE AT MULSHIPET?

YES. IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE.



BECAUSE THIS DAM WILL BE A BOON TO THE COUNTRY.

BUT AT WHAT COST?



BAPAT, I ADVISE YOU TO MEET THE PEASANTS AND TALK TO THEM. ONLY THEN WILL YOU REALISE THEIR FLIGHT.

I WILL.



BAPAT VISITED ALL THE FIFTY-FOUR VILLAGES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.

HOW CAN WE LEAVE THIS LAND, SIR? THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN. THIS IS THE LAND TILLED BY MY GRANDFATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM.



SIR, EVEN BEFORE I AGREED TO GIVE UP MY LAND, THEY OCCUPIED MY FIELD AND BEGAN WORK.

THEY SAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THEM PERMISSION TO DO SO.





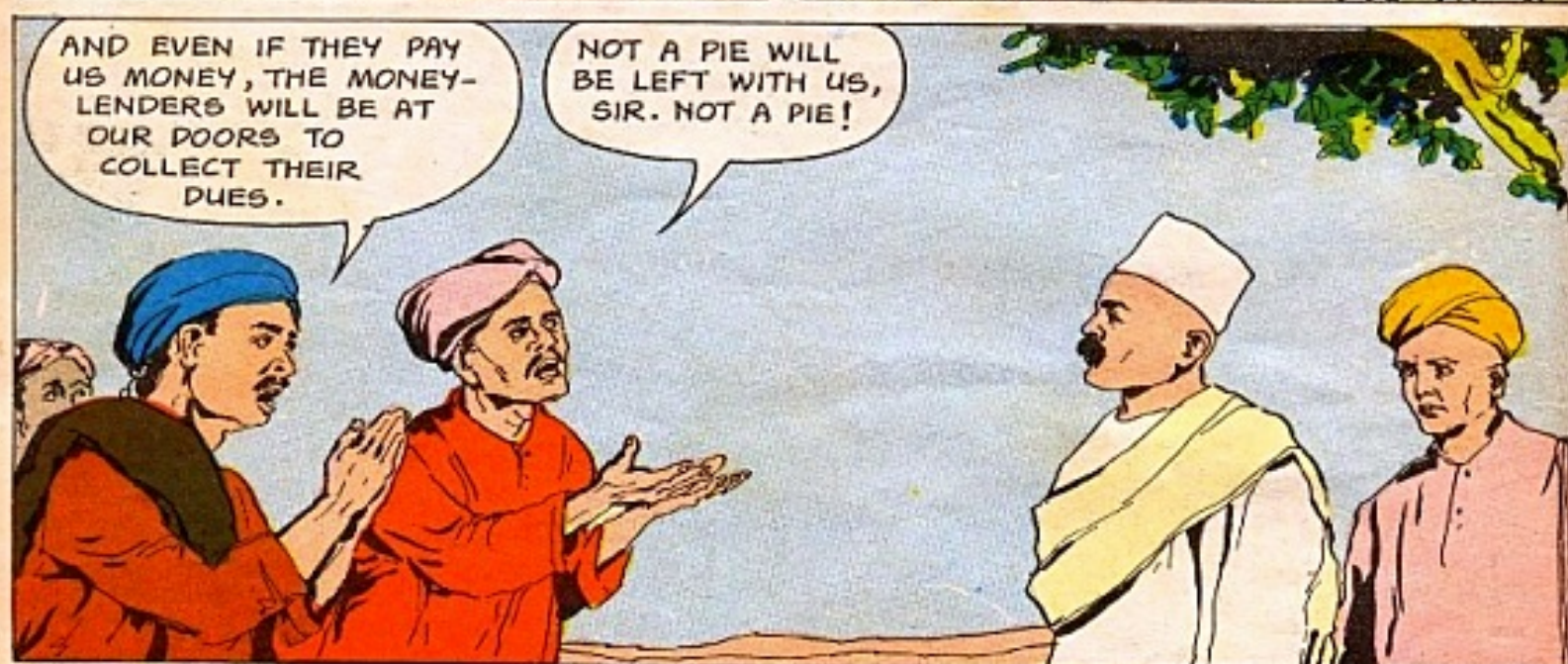


ALL WE HAVE  
IS THIS LAND  
AND OUR HUT.

WHAT WILL WE  
LIVE ON IF  
THE LAND IS  
TAKEN AWAY?

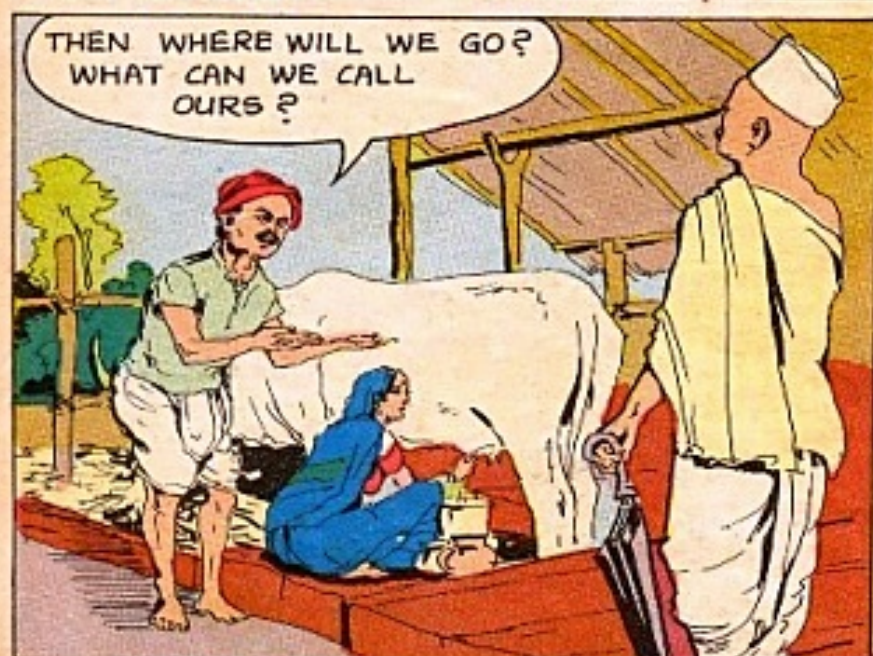


THEY SAY THEY WILL  
GIVE US MONEY. BUT NO  
MONEY IN THE WORLD  
CAN REPLACE A MAN'S  
ANCESTRAL LAND.

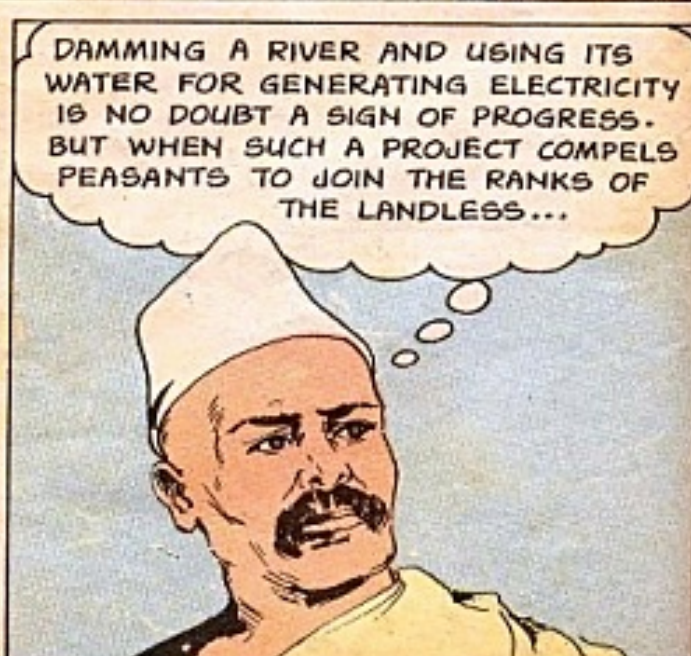


AND EVEN IF THEY PAY  
US MONEY, THE MONEY-  
LENDERS WILL BE AT  
OUR DOORS TO  
COLLECT THEIR  
DUES.

NOT A PIE WILL  
BE LEFT WITH US,  
SIR. NOT A PIE!

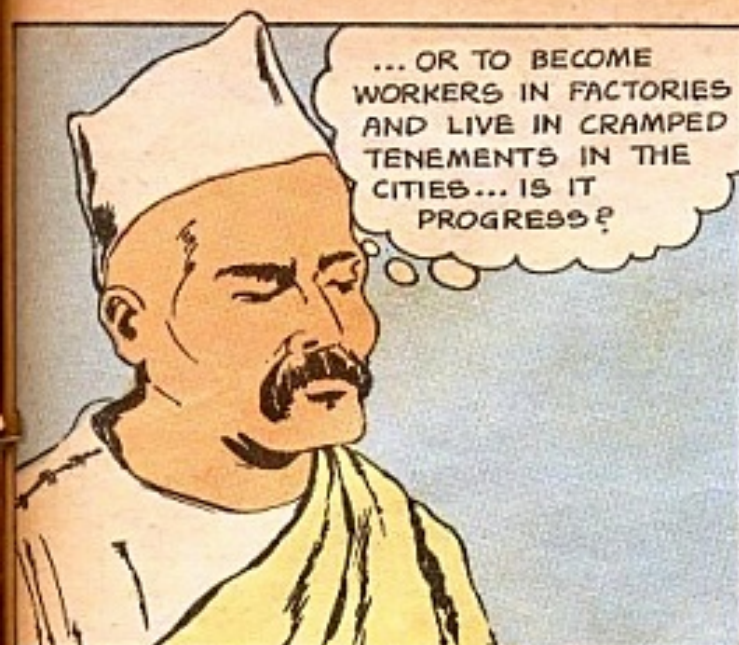


THEN WHERE WILL WE GO?  
WHAT CAN WE CALL  
OURS?

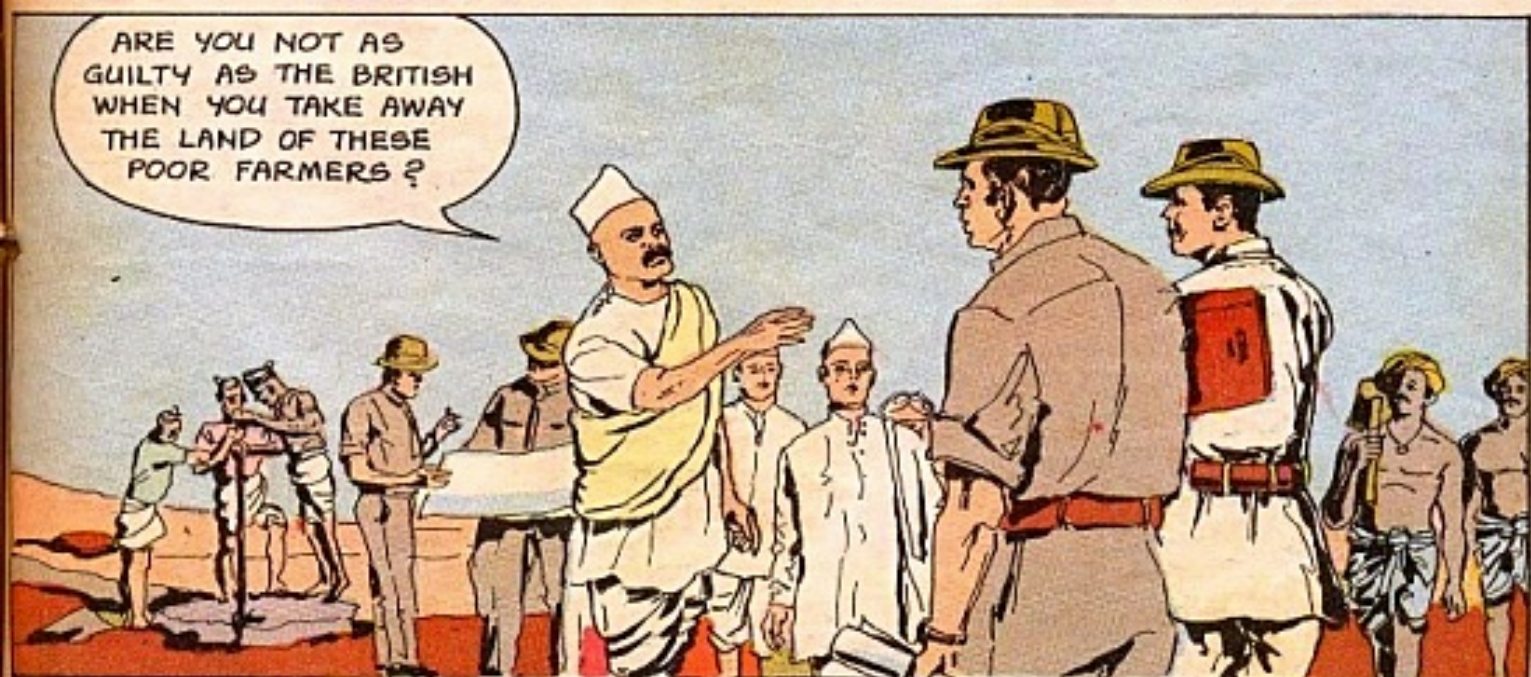


DAMMING A RIVER AND USING ITS  
WATER FOR GENERATING ELECTRICITY  
IS NO DOUBT A SIGN OF PROGRESS.  
BUT WHEN SUCH A PROJECT COMPELS  
PEASANTS TO JOIN THE RANKS OF  
THE LANDLESS...





THE NEXT DAY, BAPAT JOINED THE MASS SATYAGRAHA\* ORGANISED BY THE FARMERS AT THE DAM SITE.





HO, THERE! I WARN YOU.  
GET OUT OF THERE, OR  
WE WILL POUR HOT WATER  
ON ALL OF YOU!

DO AS YOU  
WISH. WE WILL  
GIVE UP OUR  
LIVES BUT NOT  
OUR LANDS!

FINALLY, THE COMPANY AGREED TO STOP  
WORK ON THE DAM FOR SIX MONTHS,  
BUT THEY STARTED TO LAY A RAILWAY  
LINE TO MULSHI.

LAYING RAILWAY TRACKS NOW TO  
MULSHI ARE PREPARATIONS TO  
TRANSPORT MATERIAL AND  
WORKERS FOR THE  
COMPLETION OF THE DAM.  
IT IS THEREFORE A  
CONTINUATION OF THE  
DAM PROJECT. THE  
COMPANY IS BREAKING  
ITS PROMISE.

BAPAT FIRST MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR TO THE COMPANY. THEN —

WE WILL REMOVE THE TRACKS.  
THIS IS MY METHOD OF  
NON-VIOLENT PROTEST.

FOR THIS ACTION BAPAT WAS ARRESTED.

I SENTENCE YOU TO  
SIX MONTHS'  
IMPRISONMENT.

BUT AS SOON AS HE WAS OUT OF JAIL,  
BAPAT WAS BACK AT MULSHI!

SIR, FOR OUR SAKE, YOU  
BORE A JAIL-SENTENCE.  
WE BEG YOU NOW TO  
BECOME PRESIDENT OF  
THE SATYAGRAHIS.

I ACCEPT IT AS  
AN HONOUR.



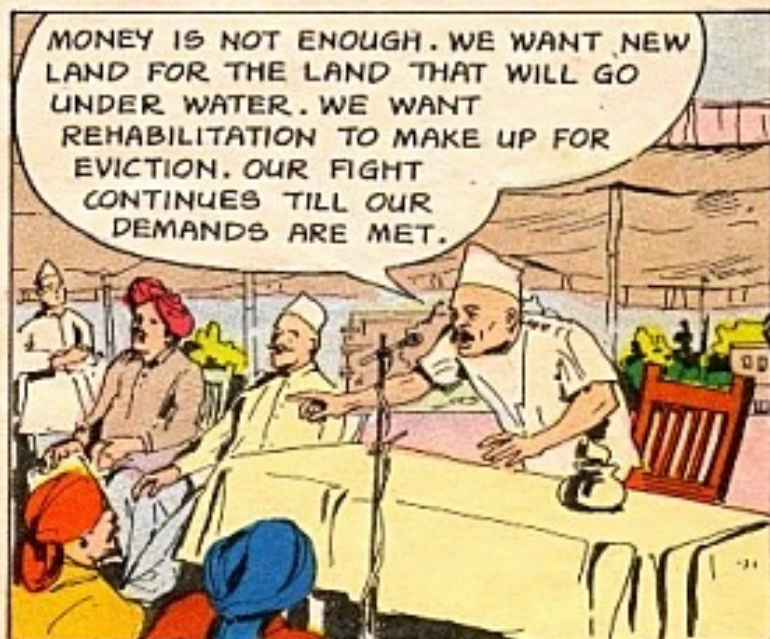
BAPAT WORKED CEASELESSLY AND WITH DEDICATION. HE TOURED MAHARASHTRA TO MOBILISE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE MOVEMENT.



OURS IS A FIGHT FOR JUSTICE...  
PEASANTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY  
ARE CONCERNED WITH THE STRUGGLE  
PUT UP BY THE PEASANTS OF  
MULSHIPET...



...FOR MORE, MANY MORE DAMS  
WILL BE BUILT IN THE YEARS TO  
COME AND THOUSANDS OF  
VILLAGERS WILL BE DISPLACED.



MONEY IS NOT ENOUGH. WE WANT NEW  
LAND FOR THE LAND THAT WILL GO  
UNDER WATER. WE WANT  
REHABILITATION TO MAKE UP FOR  
EVICTION. OUR FIGHT  
CONTINUES TILL OUR  
DEMANDS ARE MET.



WE ARE WITH  
YOU, SENAPATI!

YES. LEAD US,  
SENAPATI.

THUS A SENAPATI, A COMMANDER, WAS  
BORN — SENAPATI BAPAT.



BUT AGAIN, FOR HIS STRONG SPEECHES  
AND PROTEST MARCHES, SENAPATI  
BAPAT HAD TO GO TO JAIL TWICE, FOR  
SIX MONTHS AND THEN  
A YEAR.



WHEN HE WAS RELEASED —

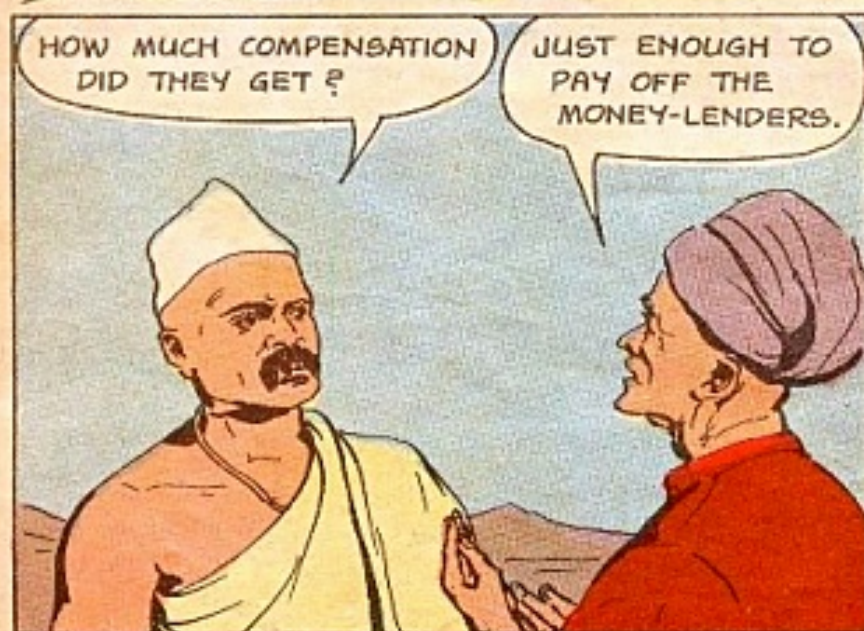
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?  
WHERE IS EVERYONE?

SIR, PRODDED BY THE MONEY-LENDERS  
AND BEATEN DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT,  
THEY ACCEPTED THEIR COMPENSATION  
AND LEFT.



HOW MUCH COMPENSATION  
DID THEY GET?

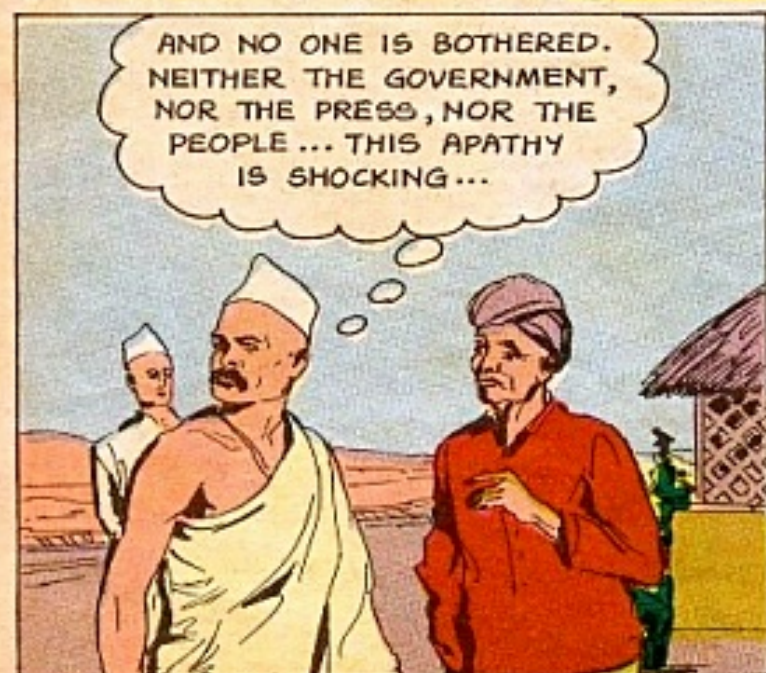
JUST ENOUGH TO  
PAY OFF THE  
MONEY-LENDERS.



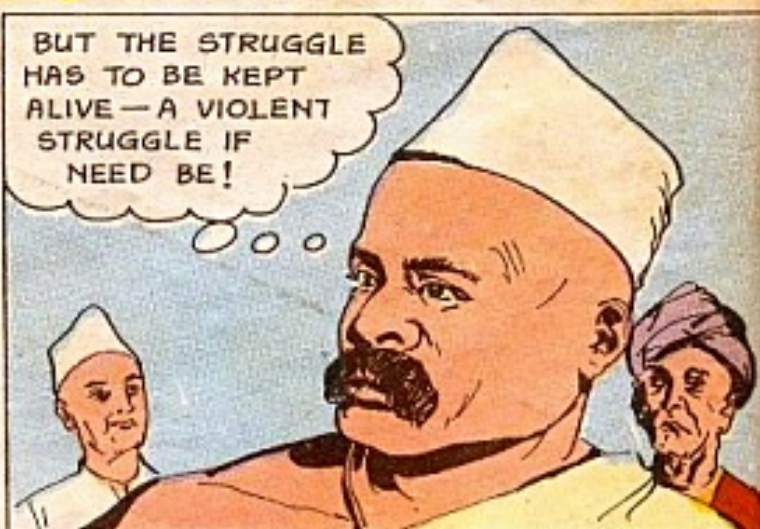
AH, THE SADNESS OF IT!  
DRIVEN BY POVERTY AND  
BY GRABING MONEY-  
LENDERS, WHAT OTHER  
OPTION IS THERE FOR  
OUR PEASANT FARMERS  
BUT RETREAT?



AND NO ONE IS BOTHERED.  
NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT,  
NOR THE PRESS, NOR THE  
PEOPLE ... THIS APATHY  
IS SHOCKING...



BUT THE STRUGGLE  
HAS TO BE KEPT  
ALIVE — A VIOLENT  
STRUGGLE IF  
NEED BE!



SENAPATI BAPAT DECIDED TO USE A  
DRAMATIC METHOD TO DRAW THE ATTENTION  
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE TO THE  
INJUSTICE METED OUT TO THE FARMERS.



AGAIN, SENAPATI BAPAT INFORMED THE BUILDERS OF THE DAM OF HIS INTENTIONS. BARRICADES WERE PLACED BEFORE THE TRAIN COMING TO MULSHI.



STOP! YOU SHALL NOT PROCEED!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? HOW DARE YOU!



AH...



AT ONCE, THE SATYAGRAHIS WENT TO THE POLICE-STATION.

WE SURRENDER! WE STOPPED A TRAIN, INJURED THE DRIVER AND PASSENGERS; BUT ONLY INJURED. ARREST US IF YOU WILL.

??





AND LATER, AT THE TRIAL —

OUR INTENTION WAS NOT TO KILL ANYONE. PUNISH US FOR THE INJURIES WE HAVE CAUSED. WE SATYAGRAHIS ARE NOT AFRAID OF PUNISHMENT.



THERE IS A WAR GOING ON BETWEEN THE SATYAGRAHIS AND THE BUILDERS OF THE DAM. THIS IS PART OF THAT WAR.

FOR YOUR VIOLENT ACT, I SENTENCE YOU TO SEVEN YEARS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT.



AFTER SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON, BAPAT EMERGED FRAIL AND THIN.

WELCOME BACK, SENAPATI. YOU MUST NOW REST FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS.



TWELVE MONTHS? TWELVE DAYS, MY FRIEND!



EVEN AFTER COMING OUT OF PRISON, BAPAT WORE CLOTHES SIMILAR TO THAT OF A PRISONER.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, SENAPATI?

NO, I SHALL CONTINUE TO DRESS LIKE A PRISONER TILL THE COUNTRY IS FREE OF THE FOREIGN YOKE.



WE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. ONLY IN FREE INDIA CAN YOU HOPE TO PUT ON AN ELECTRIC LIGHT IN YOUR HOME, WITHOUT PUTTING OUT THE LIGHTS IN A THOUSAND OTHER HOMES.





# BAPAT SMUGGLED INTO BOMBAY

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE HAD STARTED HIS FORWARD BLOC PARTY AND AT ITS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING ON THE CHOWPATTY SANDS IN 1940, BAPAT WAS INVITED TO SPEAK. BUT THE DAY BEFORE THIS —

THIS IS BAD NEWS AND WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED IN THE PAPERS THAT SENAPATI WILL BE SPEAKING TOMORROW.

WELL, I AM DETERMINED THAT SENAPATI SHALL SPEAK! HERE IS WHAT WE'LL DO...



THE NEXT EVENING, A HUGE CROWD GATHERED AT CHOWPATTY, WAITING TO HEAR BAPAT. A LARGE POLICE PRESENCE WAS VISIBLE EVERYWHERE.



SUDDENLY —

FRIENDS, AS REPORTED IN THE PAPERS, SENAPATI, DEFYING THE POLICE BAN, WILL DEFINITELY BE WITH US HERE TODAY.

HURRAH! HURRAH!



THE POLICEMEN WERE STARTLED.





THEN —

BAPAT SAHEB  
IS COMING...

A GROUP WAS COMING BRISKLY TOWARDS  
THE DAIS, AND AMONG THEM WAS BAPAT.



FRIENDS, I PROMISED TO  
BE HERE AND I AM HERE.



HERE IS THE ORDER  
BANNING MY  
ENTRY.

LONG LIVE  
SENAPATI!  
HURRAH!





AND BAPAT BEGAN HIS SPEECH—FULL OF FERVOUR.



AND ONLY THEN DID THE FLABBERGASTED POLICE ACT.



FOR DEFYING THE BAN, BAPAT WENT TO JAIL FOR A YEAR. EVER GENTLE, NEVER DEJECTED, THERE WAS ALWAYS A SMILE IN HIS EYES AS HE WENT ABOUT HIS JAIL DUTIES.

YOU ARE SO QUIET HERE IN JAIL, SENAPATI. YOU NEVER REBEL OR PROTEST.

OUTSIDE JAIL, I AM A SLAVE OF THE BRITISH—I MUST REBEL AND DEFY THE LAW. BUT WHEN I AM HERE FOR THE SAKE OF MY MOTHERLAND—I MUST BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOUR.



ON AUGUST 15, 1947, THE STRUGGLE PUT UP BY MILLIONS OF PATRIOTS, BORE FRUIT. INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT.



IN DELHI, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOISTED THE NATIONAL FLAG.

IN PUNE, BAPAT WAS GIVEN THAT HONOUR.



AFTER INDEPENDENCE, SENAPATI BAPAT CONTINUED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TILL HIS DEATH ON NOVEMBER 28, 1967. HE WAS 87 WHEN HE DIED.